SAVE Supporting Activities that Value the Environment

HOME COMPOSTING
MADE SIMPLE!

Step 1: **PICK YOUR COMPOSTER**
"Home Composting Unit" can be as simple as a pile on the ground at the back of your garden or as complicated as a purpose built rotating compost bin. Some of the easiest options are shown here.


Pile on the ground


Stationary bin


Aerated cylinder bin


Rotating compost bin

Step 2: **COLLECT THE RIGHT KIND OF GARBAGE**
Two types of garbage are needed: **Greens** and **Browns.**

GREEN (fresh)	Fruit and vegetable scraps, fresh leaves, grass cuttings, plant remains, old flowers and bedding plants, weeds (before going to seed), young hedge clippings, manure (plant-eating animals only and NO chicken manure)
BROWNS (dry)	Coffee grounds and filters, dry leaves and grass, old straw and hay, wood ash, cardboard (e.g cereal boxes), paper bags and packaging, egg boxes, tea bags, paper towels, napkins

DO NOT USE: chicken manure, meat and dairy food scraps, fish, fats and oils, cat litter, dog feces, newspapers and glossy papers, plants infected with persistent diseases such as white rot, coal and coke ash, sprayed grass

Step 3:
DUMP IN YOUR TRASH
Just be sure for every layer of **greens** (like kitchen scraps) you add 3 times as many **browns** (like dry leaves) at the same time.

Step 4: **KEEP IT MIXED & MOIST**
Mix it regularly. Keep the ingredients damp, but not wet, either by mixing in extra greens or browns, or by sprinkling in water.


Turn over the compost heap each time you add something to it.


Stir up the ingredients in your stationary bin once a week.


Stir only once a month, adding new layer on top. Be sure greens are layered with 3x their volume in browns on top of it.


Rotate the bin once a day.

Step 5: **USE IT!**
In 3-6 months, you will have your very own organic compost for the garden. Even better, your composter should now produce compost almost continuously from this point forward.

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TIPS for HOME COMPOSTING MADE SIMPLE!

Step 1: Choosing a Composting Unit

- **Pile on the ground (compost heap)**—good if you have a large area away from the house. Cheapest method but requires regular maintenance to turn the pile and monitor moisture levels. Harder to keep moisture consistent throughout the year in Cyprus.
- **Stationary bin**—simple and cheap, but the compost can be difficult to stir in the bin.
- **Aerated cylinder bin**—good for urban gardens and requires little maintenance. It needs diligent layering of greens and browns, but little mixing, as compost is created as layers break down on top of each other.
- **Rotating bin**—ideal for Cyprus and produces almost foolproof compost, however they are hard to find and may have to be custom built. Need to have large garden space as unit is larger than other bins.

Step 2: Collect the Right Kind of Garbage

- Chop big pieces before adding to the compost. Smaller pieces decompose more easily.
- Do not overload the composting pile or bin, otherwise compost will not get enough air.
- Avoid manure or feces from chickens or any meat-eating animal (like dogs or cats).

Step 3: Dump in your Trash

- Remember the 3:1 ratio of browns to greens.

Step 4: Keep It Mixed & Moist

- Do not add too much water at once, otherwise you may end up with clumps which can reduce the quality of the finished compost.
- Adding sawdust can help absorb excess moisture in the composter.
- Each kind of composter has slightly different maintenance needs. Know your unit.

Step 5: USE IT!

- After 3 - 6 months, test if the compost is ready: Put some in a closed bag and check it after a week. If it smells like a forest floor, it is ready to use! Mix it into your garden top soil.

How to Get the Compost Out

Compost Pile—turn the pile over and shovel out the mature compost from the bottom of the pile.

Stationary Bin—Dump the entire bin out upside down. Shovel out the mature compost from the bottom of the bin. Shovel remaining contents back into the bin.

Aerated cylinder bin—Open the door at the bottom of the bin and scoop out mature compost.

Rotating bin—Rotate the unit 2-3 times as mature compost should settle on top of the contents. Shovel it out, keep remaining contents in the bin.

Why should you Compost?

- Composting creates a 100% organic fertilizer.
- Compost actually improves the soil structure and enriches the plants.
- Home composting reduces or eliminates the need to buy commercial fertilizers or compost.
- Cuts down on the trash in your house by around 30-40% and recycles it into a valuable product.
- Composting reduces pollution and greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.
- Composting helps increase environmental awareness among the entire family, especially the kids, as well as the community.

HOME COMPOSTING PILOT PROGRAM BEYARMUDU / PERGAMOS

Home composting is already bearing fruit. In December 2007, SAVE launched a home composting pilot program with twenty families to show the local community just how easy it was to compost and the big difference it can make in household garbage disposal. Each household received a rotating compost bin, initial training, and follow-up site visits to address any issues that came up.

- 94% of volunteers ended up with ready-to-use compost.
- 30% of home waste, roughly 3,100 kg in total over 6 months, was recycled rather than sent to the community dump site.
- Each household saved $125 per year by simply not having to buy commercial fertilizers or compost.

"Our garbage has been cut down by roughly 30%. It is great to be able to reduce the amount of trash dumped. Besides its positive impact on the environment, it also helped us save money on fertilizers."
Neşet Haydaroğulları

"It's great that we can make use of our garbage as fertilizer."
Sultan Rızaner

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